

2008-2009 General Appropriations Act

SECTION 24—J16—DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

24.9. (DDSN: Pervasive Developmental Disorder) The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, as the agency authorized to treat autistic disorder, is designated for a Medicaid project to treat children who have been diagnosed by eight years of age with a pervasive developmental disorder. The project must target the youngest ages feasible for treatment effectiveness, treatment for each individual child shall not exceed three years without a special exception as defined in the waiver, and reimbursement for each individual participant may not exceed \$50,000 per year. The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and the Department of Health and Human Services will determine the areas of the State with the greatest need and availability of providers. Children participating in the project will be selected based upon an application system developed in compliance with the Medicaid waiver. Treatment will be provided as authorized and prescribed by the department according to the degree of the developmental disability. In authorizing and prescribing treatment the department may award grants or negotiate and contract with public or private entities to implement intervention programs, which must comply with Medicaid reimbursement methodologies, for children who have been diagnosed with a pervasive developmental disorder. "Pervasive developmental disorder" means a neurological condition, including autistic disorder and Asperger's syndrome, as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association. The department shall report semi-annually to the General Assembly and the Governor on the developmental progress of the children participating in the project. This provision does not establish or authorize creation of an entitlement program or benefit.